



November 2008

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties
www.ebcnps.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, November 5 at the home of Carol Castro, 890 Estudillo, San Leandro. Meet at 7, gavel at 7:15, end gavel at 8:45. Nominations for Chapter officers may be sent to Erin McDermott, erinmcd2004@yahoo.com.

Native Here p. 2. Native Here open for business & volunteer help: Fridays 9 am – 12 pm and Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm
Seed collecting, see www.ebcnps.org/seedtrips.html

Restoration p. 6

Saturday, November 8 at 9:30 am, *Genista* rip at Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve

Membership meeting see below

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 pm, Orinda Public Library Garden Room

Wayne Roderick Lectures p. 7, all on Saturdays at 10:30 am, Regional Parks Botanic Garden Visitors Center

November 1: From summer on the Shasta limestones to spring at Mt. Lassen—Steve Edwards

November 8: Reconnaissance botany and volcanology of the Clear Lake region—Steve Edwards

November 15: Managing vernal pool grasslands for biodiversity using grazing and fire—Jaymee Marty

November 22: The California deserts, an ecological rediscovery—Bruce Pavlik

BYLAWS APPROVED AT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The new Chapter Bylaws were approved by the unanimous vote of the members present at the special membership meeting held September 24, 2008 at the Orinda Public Library. The existing bylaws call for a 2/3 majority of the members present at such a meeting to approve proposals. All members present voted and all voted in favor.

The new Bylaws took effect immediately but the most important innovation will not be felt until the new elected Board takes office January 1, 2009. The new Bylaws define membership on the Chapter Board as the five elected officers and committee chairs who are approved by the Board. Once a committee chair is so approved, that person becomes a voting member of the Board for the current term.

Thus the whole Board serves for one year and is renewed each January by the newly elected officers.

The other changes to the Bylaws were mostly technical. The new Bylaws can be viewed on the Chapter website www.ebcnps.org.

The Bylaws committee was chaired by Carol Castro and included Charli Danielsen, Sandy McCoy and David Margolies. The committee is now disbanded.

David Margolies

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy

Speakers: **Bonnie J. Gisell** and **Stephen J. Joseph**

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

John Muir was blessed throughout his life with a love of plants. He tucked away specimens from wherever he traveled and sent them

to herbaria at Harvard, Philadelphia, and St. Louis, and probably as well to San Francisco—to the California Academy of Sciences. He sent them to friends and colleagues and wrote passionately of them in notes, letters, articles, and books. Skilled in the technical aspects of botany, Muir also found in plants “pleasure so deep, so pure, so endless.” The revelatory beauty of plants provided inspiration that suffused his career as writer, adventurer, and environmental advocate.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Bonnie J. Gisell, the author of *Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy*, and Stephen J. Joseph, the landscape photographer who undertook the imaging of the plant specimens, drawings, photographs, and memorabilia for the book, will present a lecture and breathtakingly beautiful slide show of the plants Muir loved and the specimens he collected. A book signing will follow, and copies of the book as well as 11" x 14" prints selected from the book will be available for purchase.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room will open at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served after the presentation, and copies of the book *Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy*, as well as photographic prints, will be available for purchase and signing by the authors.

NATIVE HERE/PLANT FAIR

The party's over. . . or is it? Support the Chapter year 'round.

The October Plant Fair will be over when you read this, but I am writing it in the throes of preparation. Revenues from the Plant Fair and year-round sales of local natives at Native Here fund about half of the chapter's budget, so when you purchase plants from the chapter, you are supporting all of its work. Check the next *Bay Leaf* to find out how we did.

The Native Here Nursery contract is up for renewal, and the Park District is willing to renew it for five years under the original purpose: growing and selling local natives. The five year renewal is good news! Local native plants, related books, posters, and other products will continue to be sold at the nursery. The nursery sells year-round during the hours posted in the calendar and on the chapter web site.

All California natives continue to be available at the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden spring sale and year round through the botanic garden volunteers.

The Plant Fair has raised awareness of the existence of Native Here, although some people don't realize that plants may be purchased there year round. Volunteers do an amazing array of tasks: from collecting and processing seeds and cuttings, through sowing and tending small plants, potting-up to ever larger containers, and keeping the nursery looking good. Volunteers keep track of their hours, and are welcome any time the nursery is open. Propagation and distribution of local native plants is alive and well.

Your ideas about ways for the chapter to continue propagating, growing and selling "All California" natives and your participation are welcomed, e-mail to nativehere@ebcnps.org. Under the contract, selling non-local natives is not allowed to continue at Native Here.

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Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornia@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Highway 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Highway 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the new 2 story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

Support the East Bay Chapter through plant purchases at Native Here.

Featured plant:



Quercus agrifolia, Coast live oak, encina

These evergreen trees are very common in the East Bay. Birds, squirrels, and deer love oaks. Scrub jays and fox squirrels busy themselves collecting acorns in the fall and caching them. Since they never access every last one of their caches, you'll find little oaks sprouting up everywhere. Deer eat the acorns and young leaves.

If you have a large yard, consider planting a coast live oak. They grow into beautiful trees with silver bark and long, twisting branches. Some people have even grown them as informal hedges. Only water them the first summer or two to get them established, then do not water again. They are adapted to our dry summers and will get root rot if you water them in the summer (i.e. coast live oaks and lawns do not mix).

Some people are concerned about the chances of garden oaks dying of Sudden Oak Death (SOD). Sudden Oak Death is primarily a forest disease. There are rare occurrences of SOD affecting landscaped yards that are located along the urban/wildland interface where remnant forest trees have been incorporated into private gardens. Here is a link (pdf file) that gives Sudden Oak Death Guidelines for California landscapers and gardeners http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf/pdf/landscaper_1-08.pdf.

Volunteer opportunities and ways to help the nursery:

- Come buy plants throughout the fall. As plants emerge from dormancy, species not available at the Plant Fair will be offered.
- Gregg is leading trips to collect seeds and cuttings on various days. He lists the date, time and meeting place at www.ebcnps.org/seedtrips.html or you may call him at 510 223-3310 for more information or e-mail Charli at nativehere@ebcnps.org

- Volunteers are welcome at the nursery to help replenish our stock after the fair. We'll be seed sowing, transplanting, weeding, moving plants around, watering, and doing other tasks. If interested, email us at nativehere@ebcnps.org or show up when the nursery is open.

We accept used pots when the nursery is open Fridays (nine to noon) and Saturdays (ten to one). We reuse some of them and put the rest in the bin just outside the top gate. Anyone is welcome to take pots from this bin to use for their own planting projects.

We are located in Tilden Regional Park, across the street from the entrance to the Tilden Golf Course, 101 Golf Course Dr, Berkeley, CA 94708, 510-549-0211, nativehere@ebcnps.org, www.ebcnps.org.

Charli Daniels, Margot Cunningham, Delia Taylor & Janice Bray

CONSERVATION ANALYST DONATIONS NEAR 30K

Conservation Analyst donors (additional to those whose names are listed in September issue):

Carol & Pedro Castro, James Hanson (Meadow Works), Jill Korte, William "Sandy" McCoy and Natasha Beery, Lewis Lubin and Laura Baker.

The donation to the Conservation Analyst Fund made by Sandy McCoy was sent directly to the state CNPS office, our chapter only recently learned about it through Sandy. If you, too, have made a donation directly to the state CNPS office for the Chapter Conservation Analyst and have not seen your name listed in the Bay Leaf, please notify our Chapter Treasurer, Holly Forbes.

The donations thus far total \$27,622.50.

If you have not yet made a donation to the Conservation Analyst Fund, please take a look at the Conservation Analyst's report in this issue (on page 4). We think it provides ample evidence that for the 20 hours a week that we are able to pay our Conservation Analyst, the East Bay Chapter gets a great deal in return. In addition, the Society as a whole has benefited from Lech's extensive efforts to help organize the participation of the other Bay Area Chapters in the Upland Habitat Goals Project, and from his work to plan the statewide Conservation Conference in January, 2009. Please help us meet our funding goal and keep this program going. On behalf of our native flora we thank you!

Laura Baker and Holly Forbes

CNPS 2009 CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

The CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference and workshops will be held January 17 through 21 at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento. The main goal of this conference is to identify and promote science- and policy-based strategies and solutions to improve the conservation of California's native flora and natural landscapes. The conference will focus on: 1) finding and promoting solutions to the environmental challenges confronting California's flora 2) integrating the best science with the most effective public policies to meet these challenges 3) pressing forward more and better regional and statewide landscape-level conservation initiatives.

You can register early (before November 15) to get a reduced rate. Group rates at the conference hotel are also available. See the conference website, www.cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2009/, for details.

The conference will include:

- Plenary sessions and keynote speakers including: environmental justice and clean energy advocate Jerome Ringo; Professor Steven Hopper, Director of the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew; and naturalist, educator, artist, and author John (Jack) Muir Laws.
- Over 40 accomplished presenters featured in 13 session topics including: mitigation, habitat fragmentation, environmental policy, conservation genetics, and much more.
- Sessions devoted to challenges and successes in specific California bioregions.
- Post Conference workshops on a wide array of related topics (January 20-21, 2009).

CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT

Our Chapter Conservation Analyst, Lech Naumovich, is working on many projects around the East Bay, some of which he described at the September membership meeting. Here is his report on his activities, organized by project. *Eds.*

Priority Protection Areas – While the PPA is primarily a project of the Rare Plants Committee, Lech has been meeting with Heath Bartosh, Rare Plant Chair, and has been providing review and collecting comments and suggestions on early drafts of this document. Thus far the layout template is established and about half of the layouts are in a draft stage with text. Guest authors have been identified, and we are finalizing the interview protocol.

Concord Naval Weapons Station – The Draft EIR was released for the CNWS Reuse project. EBCNPS commented on the project alternatives and the botanical data. With the support of many local groups, we are proud to state that, of the two preferred alternatives, one has about 73% open space and parks, which is close to the 80% open space plan that EBCNPS and the conservation groups were supporting.

Upland Habitat Goals Project – This project is nearing completion, and involvement has been reduced to attending the Steering Committee meetings. The draft of this document is anticipated in the next 6 months, and EBCNPS expects to read and edit the draft as appropriate.

Springtown – EBCNPS continues efforts to increase awareness and launch a community-based movement to help communicate the scientific and cultural importance of this site. Friends of Springtown has launched a website at www.springtownpreserve.org. The Friends were awarded a stakeholder seat at the regional Eastern Alameda County Conservation Strategy planning meetings (see below). Also, members of Friends of Springtown, notably Patti Cole and Mary Ann Hannon, continue to meet with city officials, plan volunteer days, and coordinate educational trips and courses.

East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan – The HCP was approved by all local cities and counties, and the regulatory agencies, and now the first pro-active restoration projects are under way. EBCNPS staff was awarded one of twelve seats on the advisory committee for this project. Lentzer Springs (near Vasco Caves) is the site of vernal pool restorations funded by this project. EBCNPS is working with consultants to ensure that proper monitoring and standards are used on these types of projects.

Serpentine Prairie and Redwood Park – EBCNPS is working with the East Bay Regional Park District in order to communicate important information and ideas as a management and restoration plan for Redwood Park's serpentine prairie is being created. A management plan has been approved by the Department of Fish and Game, incorporating monitoring and a total census of the prairie. Tree removal is planned for the site although, much to our disappointment, the initial timeline for removal has been delayed for political reasons.

Extension of East Bay Regional Park District EBRPD AA Funding (Measure WW) – EBCNPS is working with the Park District to help promote the benefits of measure WW, which appears on November's ballot. This measure is a continuation of an existing parcel assessment fee for the two-County area.

San Francisco Public Utilities Company Expansion Project – EBCNPS will be reviewing the Final EIR for the Water System Improvement Program (WSIP), the huge overhaul and expansion of the SFPUC's water supply system. Although we have yet to see how our initial comments have been addressed, we continue to work with the consultants on the habitat reserve program, a portion of the WSIP project.

2009 Conservation Conference – EBCNPS will be submitting one or two posters to the 2009 Conservation Conference. Registration is open for the January 17th to 19th conference in Sacramento. We are hoping to attract over 1,000 participants. Lech will be co-chairing a two-session talk on the Central Coast and Central Valley ecoregions.

Conservation Easements – Since many of the recent projects that we've been analyzing include conservation easements as tools for conserving native plants, we are investigating the process of creating and managing an easement. We've observed that this technical process has many pitfalls and the preservation of flora is not guaranteed. A recent article in the *CNPS Bulletin* highlights the research we are doing which we hope later to describe in an article in *Fremontia*.

Russell City Energy Center (RCEC) – EBCNPS has been supporting Hayward grassroot groups in their battle to ensure that proper environmental review and impact analysis have occurred before the power plant, the fifth largest emissions point source in the Bay Area, is constructed on the Hayward shoreline. Although all the review documents are completed and approved by agencies, EBCNPS feels that significant changes to the design and siting of RCEC have occurred since the documents were signed, thus requiring a supplementary review. EBCNPS believes that impacts to the shoreline and local area will be much more significant than current analyses predict.

Eastern Alameda County Conservation Strategy (EACCS) – EBCNPS has been invited as a stakeholder environmental group to this planning effort in the Livermore Valley and beyond. This project is being funded by regional, state, and federal agencies as well as local cities who hope to produce a plan that will help identify conservation areas to help ensure that mitigation from local projects will stay in Alameda county, thus benefiting the local area.

Oak Knoll Development Plan — We have been working with the Oak Knoll Coalition, a consortium of local neighborhood groups in the Oakland Hills, to provide informational support in their efforts to ensure that the redevelopment of the site of the former Oak Knoll Naval Hospital protects sensitive natural communities

found there. Currently, a huge housing development has been proposed that would involve the removal of thousands of native trees, impacts to native grasslands, and other major environmental problems.

Lech Naumovich

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Have you decided that you would you like to be notified electronically about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, etc.? Please make sure we have your current email address. Let me, Carol, or the State office know if your email has changed.

Have any questions about upcoming events? Interested in getting more involved? Please don't hesitate to contact us. elainejx@att.net, 925-372.0687 or carollbcastro@hotmail.com, 510-352-2382

Getting More Involved and Having Lots of Fun Doing It

Think Globally, Volunteer Locally

Brentwood – The Friends of Marsh Creek will be planting a California Native Demonstration Garden in Creekside Park. Contact Mary Grim 925-672-6522 x 113 or email mary.grim@ca.nacdn.net

Clayton – Help needed at the Native Plant Garden at the Clayton Library. Contact Lisa Anich at 925- 689-2642 or email admin@diablocreek.info.

Martinez – Help needed at the new Native Plant Garden at the John Muir Historical Site Visitors Center. Join us on most Monday or Tuesday mornings for an hour or so of general clean up at our beautiful new garden. We have finalized the *Color & Garden Book*, and it will be available at the John Muir Visitors Center for a \$5.00 donation. Contact Elaine Jackson at 925-372-0687 or email elainejx@att.net

Martinez – Strentzel Meadow is in the process of planning a native butterfly garden and possible seeding of additional native grasses.

Mt Diablo State Park – Looking for some skilled volunteer help in designing the Mitchell Canyon Interpretive Garden with plants

from the Mitchell Canyon watershed. Contact Dave Caniglia at cani@mindspring.com or 925-287-9733.

Pleasant Hill – Volunteers are always welcome at the Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center Garden. Contact Monika Olsen at 925-937-1530 or email phecgarden@prodigy.net

Walnut Creek – Native demonstration garden on The Iron Horse Trail in Walnut Creek near the Walnut Creek Intermediate. Contact Judy Adler, jadlermtnmama@sbcglobal.net

Many other communities have local watershed organizations that provide excellent means to get involved with education, restoration and, of course, meeting people from your town or city who share your interests in native plants and their significance for the Bay Area's diverse micro ecologies

(Do you have or know of a local event coming up in your neighborhood that would be a good location for CNPS to have a display table? You can host it. Come on up to our Native Here Nursery (during business hours) and pick up supplies to pass out. Call us with any questions.)

New Members

Please join us in welcoming those who joined in August and September: Esther Weaver, Anna Chepourkova, Craig Duprey, Jessica Kolman, Clara Muggli, Christine Pyers and Karen Rusiniak. Please let me know if I am missing your name.

Many thanks to all of you that have renewed your membership.

Elaine Jackson and Carol Castro



Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. *pomeridianum* (soap root)
Photo by Janice Bray

From the CD *East Bay Native Plants* by Janice Bray, Charli Danielsen, Gregg Weber and other volunteers.

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, November 8 at 9:30 am, *Genista* rip at Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve

Now that some early rain has arrived to soften the soil, we will take on the French broom invading the East Bay ridge trail connection from Huckleberry to Redwood Regional Parks. This area features oak/bay/madrone woodland with the understory species typical of Huckleberry Preserve, which could really use the added sunlight that will arrive with *Genista* removal. Regular volunteers, please note the different location, and that the weed crew will meet on Saturday, not Sunday, but at the same starting time. Bring water, gloves, and tools, but we will have some water and several pairs of gloves to loan.

Directions: From either north or south of Oakland, take Highway 13 and exit at Shepherd Canyon Road. From the south, you can also exit at Park Boulevard, turn left at Mountain Boulevard, and follow Mountain Boulevard to the traffic light at Mountain and Shepherd Canyon Road. At the traffic light, go straight uphill on Shepherd Canyon; do not turn left at Snake as you would have done for previous work crews (this time if you see Shepherd Canyon Park and the soccer fields to your right, you're headed in the right direction). Follow Shepherd Canyon all the way to Skyline, and then cross Skyline and park at the junction of Pinehurst Road and the Bay Ridge trail intersection. Pinehurst starts at a slight jog from Skyline/Shepherd Canyon, but is basically the same intersection.

Janet Gawthrop

SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT CNPS

The Conservation Conference Silent Auction Committee seeks donations to help defray the costs of the conference which will take place in Sacramento January 17-19, 2009.

The auction be conducted on January 18. What to contribute? There are no restrictions. Just think about what you might like to buy—artwork, books, photos, seeds, garden tools, anything nice.

Other ideas: a week or weekend in a vacation home, airline tickets, camera, computer or binoculars in working condition, a garden

design by a landscaper, garden services, a lovely vase or pot, quilt with a plant theme.

There is a donation form on the cnps.org website—click on the Conservation Conference logo and look on the side bar.

I will be happy to collect donations from our area and take them to the auction. Please contact me if you have questions or donations: Delia Taylor, 510-527-3912 deliataylor@mac.com.

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Interested volunteers can join students of the Gardening Program of Mt. Diablo Adult Education, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Contra Costa Master Gardeners, DVC's adaptive horticulture class in teaming up with the City of Pleasant Hill and the Contra Costa Central Sanitary District to create a beautiful, water-conserving garden at the Pleasant Hill Adult Education Center on Santa Barbara Road, next to the Pleasant Hill Middle School. It will serve as a demonstration garden using healthy garden practices (no pesticides), water conservation and recycling methods, and drought-tolerant and native plantings. We would very much appreciate if you pencil in one or more of these **work party days**:

- Sunday, 11/2 2:00 to 5:00 pm
- Sunday, 11/16 1:00 to 4:00 pm
- Friday, 11/28 1:00 to 4:00 pm
- Sunday, 12/7 1:00 to 4:00 pm
- Sunday, 12/14 1:00 to 4:00 pm
- Friday, 12/19 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Projects include:

- Preparing soil
- Digging basins
- Collecting compost
- Mulching
- Weeding

And much more. For more information email: phecgarden@prodigy.net or phone Monika Olsen, Teacher: (925) 937-1530. There will be other projects and additional dates scheduled in the future as well.

San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Second Annual Pilgrim Planting

November 15, 2008

9am-2pm

Come and join the effort to restore and enhance natural habitat for wildlife on the refuge through a day of planting natives. A carpool can be requested from our Fremont location but must be mentioned when you call in to make a reservation. Contact me for more information.

There is also a holly day (December 6, 10:00 am to noon), where participants learn about birds and bird habitats.

For more information, contact Liz Perry

Environmental Education Intern

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Phone: (510) 792-4275 x42

Email: ee.refuge@yahoo.com

THE WAYNE RODERICK LECTURES

WINTER 2008 – 2009

at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden
Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive
Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, CA

(South Park Drive is closed Nov.-March)

(510) 841-8732 E-mail Address: bgarden@ebparks.org www.nativeplants.org

Saturday Mornings 10:30

Free

Notice: Seating is limited. To be sure of a seat, come early and save a chair.

2008

NOVEMBER

- 1 From summer on the Shasta limestones to spring at Mt. Lassen—Steve Edwards
- 8 Reconnaissance botany and volcanology of the Clear Lake region—Steve Edwards
- 15 Managing vernal pool grasslands for biodiversity using grazing and fire—Jaymee Marty
- 22 The California deserts, an ecological rediscovery—Bruce Pavlik

DECEMBER

- 6 Studying the flora of the Sandia Mountains, New Mexico, and some special places in California—Dick O'Donnell
- 13 Prioritizing conservation of redwood forests using geographic information systems (GIS): the master plan for the redwoods—Laura Kindsvater
- 20 The last days of Livermore—Steve Edwards

Don't forget: free tours of the garden every Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 when it's not raining

Board of Directors

Elected Officers

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Peter Rauch
peterar@berkeley.edu

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

E-mail _____
(optional)

Membership category:

- ____ Student, Limited income, \$25
- ____ Individual, Library, \$45
- ____ Household, Family, or Group, \$75
- ____ Supporting, \$75
- ____ Plant lover, \$100
- ____ Patron, \$300
- ____ Benefactor, \$600
- ____ Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816

California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Time Value
November 2008 issue